



*City of Arts & Innovation*

## News Release

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### **Opening Night Gala Announced for 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverside International Film Festival**

**Riverside, California** – Film and entertainment enthusiasts are lining up for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverside International Film Festival (“RIFF”) which runs from April 20 – 29. The Festival kicks off April 20 with the **Opening Night Gala** to be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts in downtown Riverside. Following the Gala from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., fans will have a chance to meet the cast and watch the screening of *Queens of Country* at the Riverside Fox Theater.

Dr. Harki Dhillon, Founder and President of the Riverside International Film Festival commented on the Festival’s success by saying, “...I continue to be impressed with this community’s love of film and the arts. The Festival has taken on a life of its own and expanded because of the energy and creativity of those that are part of it.”

The **Opening Night Gala** will celebrate celebrity guests and judges, including famous gown designer Randy McLaughlin. McLaughlin will be honored with a lifetime achievement award and fashion design enthusiasts will be treated to a display of his famous collection including the Hollywood “Graffiti Gown”. The Graffiti Gown features McLaughlin’s personal collection of 361 celebrity signatures all hand beaded in platinum on the gown. The dress was originally designed to bring awareness to HIV/Aids and will make a stop in Riverside as part of its final world tour before being auctioned off for charity.

Riverside Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge applauded the Festival’s organizers, “RIFF is organized by members of this community to showcase film as an important part of the Riverside arts network. We are proud to welcome the international film community with features from some of the industry’s most innovative filmmakers and up-and-coming directors”.

RIFF 2012 has been attracting many global entries from France, Germany, China, Korea, Japan and India and from all over the US. Tickets and more information are available at [www.riversidefilmfest.org](http://www.riversidefilmfest.org).

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